

Kenny Rice
4340 Main Street
Clay City, Kentucky 40312

February 20, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: LightSquared, No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I have written to the FCC in the past to express my concern about the poor condition of cellular telephone service in the mountains of Kentucky, and to express my interest in the project proposed by LightSquared. I have a deep personal interest in this subject, because of my work as a volunteer firefighter, and now I would like to write to express my support for LightSquared in its Petition for Declaratory Ruling, which it filed with the FCC.

I would also like to say that I have read that LightSquared has been denied various waivers and other regulatory approval, which the news media, which has reported on this even here in Kentucky, has described as a severe setback to the plans of LightSquared. The second point I want to make is that I hope that the news media is wrong, and that the FCC and LightSquared and the GPS industry can find some other way for LightSquared to build its network, using some portion of the airwaves not now being used, or by some other means.


As I have told you in the past, I am a member of the Clay City, Kentucky, Volunteer Fire Department, which is the sole fire department for Clay City, Kentucky, a town of approximately 1,300 residents. Because of the small size of our community, we do not have a professional fire department. In the past, I have written about the problems of running a small volunteer fire department without good cell phone service, and the problem has not gotten any better.

As I have continued to follow the progress of LightSquared, I have written at different times about the things in the news, and I must say that I was particularly concerned about stories that suggest that LightSquared will not be able to operate its network at all. This is a serious matter to people in rural areas, where we do not have good cell service the way they do in places like Louisville and Lexington, here in Kentucky. Our department operates on a shoestring budget. I hesitate to think what we could do with even a few thousand dollars' worth of good equipment. And yet I read that LightSquared has invested \$4 billion in its business over the past few years, all in an attempt to bring good cell service to 260 Americans, only to find itself stopped in its tracks by an attack from what must be a very politically powerful industry, the GPS industry.

As volunteer firefighters, we depend on good communications equipment and service to communicate with our own units and with the public. Unfortunately, the mountainous terrain of Powell County does not make it easy to provide cell phone service. Therefore, service in most of Powell County is spotty at best, and non-existent at worst.

First, I write to express my support for LightSquared's Petition. Second, I also write to ask the FCC to help LightSquared find a means of putting up its network so that we can all have the benefit of its system. I don't know how much stock you put in what a volunteer firefighter from Clay City, Kentucky, thinks, but for what it's worth, I ask that you attempt to bring us better service so that we can help our citizens. Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Kenny Rice,
Clay City Volunteer
Fire Department

CC: Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Rand Paul
Congressmen:
Hal Rogers
Brett Guthrie
Ed Whitfield